

demand of the people of West Bengal to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad in the morning:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train to be named as Siraj Express; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay to introduce such train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). some representations have been received from MPs of the area.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad due to operational including line capacity and terminal constraints besides resources constraints.

Air India flights

169. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Qatar a Gulf country has refused permission to Air India flights to land there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Qatar Airways were operating their services to India under an ad-hoc entitlement which was bilaterally agreed for a limited period. When this ad-hoc entitlement was not extended, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Qatar refused permission to Air India to operate their services to Doha with effect from 20th and 23rd April, 1995. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level and the permission for Air India's operation to Doha was restored on 23.4.1995. During the period between 20th and 23rd April, 1995 only one scheduled flight of Air India was disrupted.

Daily running of Saraighat Express

170. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the demand of the people of Assam to run the Saraighat Express (Howrah-Guwahati) daily instead of tri-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some representations have been received in this regard. Running of Saraighat Express

daily is at present not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Amenities to Passengers at Garifa Railway Station

171. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers of Garifa Railway station have made a representation to the Railway Authorities for providing minimum passenger amenities and improvement of the said station.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at this station;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve it due to heavy increase in earning from this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to beautify this station like Hooghly Ghat station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic exist at the station. At a measures of further improvement provision of platform shelter and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned. Work of repairs/white washing, repairs to platform fencing & stair case have been taken up to give a facelift

AIR projects in Kerala

172. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any developmental Projects proposed to be set up in Kerala during 1996-97 by All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). the details of the schemes proposed as part of 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

Location	Scheme
1	2
Trivandrum	New Type IV Studio
Trivandrum	Commercial Broadcasting Service - Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter with 10 KW FM Transmitter.

1	2
Alleppey	Upgradation and Replacement of 100 KW MW Transmitter to 200 KW MW power.
Manjeri (Mallapuram)	Local Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter. Multi-Purpose Studio and Staff Quarters

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Tracks

173. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify the railway track from Mughalsarai to Guwahati keeping in view the shortage of petrol and diesel in the country.

(b) if so, by when, and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Section Mughalsarai-Rampur Dumra-Barauni is part of Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur electrification project. Electrification of entire section is targetted for completion by March, 99. There is no proposal at present to electrify Barauni-Guwahati section.

[English]

Export of Manpower to Brunei

174. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the agencies engaged in selection of candidates and export of manpower to Brunei;

(b) the terms and conditions imposed by the Government on these agencies for selection of candidates.

(c) whether the Government are aware of some illegal transactions connected with such export of manpower by luring unemployed Indians by such illegitimate agencies/persons; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Every Recruiting Agent registered with the Ministry of Labour or a project Exporter after obtaining permit, can carry out recruitment for export of manpower to any foreign country including Brunei.

(b) Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour for this purpose and the project Exporters are

required to furnish employment agreement, demand letter and power of attorney duly attested by the Indian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

(c) and (d). Complaints against unauthorised functioning of Recruiting agents are investigated for further legal action as per provisions of Emigration Act, as & when received.

Railways Line in Sunderban Area

175. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay down railway lines in the Sunderban area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of a new line from Lakshmikantapur to Namkhona (47 kms.) has been taken up. Lakshmikantapur to Nischintpur (21.95 kms.) has already been completed. The remaining work would get completed in the coming years.

T.V. Relay Centre in West Bengal

176. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing Doordarshan projects in West Bengal;

(b) the number of projects likely to be completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the present status and financial provisions made therefor; and

(d) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government from West Bengal and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Seven Doordarshan projects, including two studio projects, are presently under implementation in the State of West Bengal.

(b) and (c). While installation of TV Studio, Jalpaiguri and Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) at Farkka and Murshidabad (DD-2) are technically ready and await commissioning pending sanction of staff, LPTs at Ryna, Rasanti and Bishnupur are expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97 at a cost of approximately Rs.1.00 crores each. The permanent Studio set up at Shantiniketan is expected to be completed by the end of 1997-98 at an approved cost of Rs. 181.75 lakh. The approved cost of TV studio, Jalpaiguri is Rs.451.09 lakh.